

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

~~detecting a user input;~~

~~in response to the detection of a user input, generating a graphical user interface before the operating system has booted;~~

receiving a password ~~an input from the user~~ through a said graphical user interface;

and

after receiving said password, ~~input, booting the operating system~~, comparing said password to stored information using a graphics controller; and

booting an operating system after comparing said password to stored information.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including ~~wherein~~ generating said ~~[[a]] graphical user interface includes generating a graphical user interface~~ using said ~~[[a]]~~ graphics controller.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including storing information for generating said graphical user interface on an option memory.

5 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 3 ~~[[1]]~~ including using boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 3 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating a graphical user interface to enable the user to input said ~~[[a]]~~ password.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating an on-screen keyboard.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1 including receiving inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1 including authenticating a user and allowing the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 including receiving a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

11 (Currently Amended). A computer readable ~~An article comprising~~ a medium storing instructions that enables a ~~processor-based system~~ graphics controller to:

~~detect a user input;~~

~~generate a graphical user interface before the operating system has booted;~~

receive a password ~~an input from the user~~ through a said graphical user interface;

and

~~after receipt of said password, but before an operating system is booted, input, boot the operating system.~~ compare said password to stored information using a graphics controller.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

13 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to generate a graphical user interface ~~using a graphics controller.~~

14 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 13 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to generate said graphical user interface on an option memory.

15 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to use the boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

16 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to generate a graphical user interface to enable the user to input a password.

17 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 16 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to generate an on-screen keyboard.

18 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to receive inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

19 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to authenticate a user and allow the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

20 (Currently Amended). The medium ~~article~~ of claim 19 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller ~~processor-based system~~ to receive a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled).